Preface

This volume contains all the papers presented at the *Seventh International Workshop on Algorithmic Learning Theory* (ALT'96), held at the Coogee Holiday Inn, Sydney, Australia, during October 23–25, 1996. The ALT'96 workshop was collocated with the *1996 Pacific Rim Knowledge Acquisition Workshop*.

The ALT'96 program committee selected 16 long papers and 8 short papers from 41 submissions. The short papers were also discussed at a poster session. Additionally, four invited talks by J. Ross Quinlan of Sydney University, Takeshi Shinohara of the Kyushu Institute of Technology, Leslie Valiant of Harvard University, and Paul Vitányi of CWI and the University of Amsterdam were featured at the workshop.

This workshop is the seventh in a series of annual conferences established in 1990. The ALT series has focussed on all areas related to algorithmic learning theory including (but not limited to) the theory of machine learning, the design and analysis of learning algorithms, computational logic of/for machine discovery, inductive inference of recursive functions and recursively enumerable languages, learning via queries, learning by artificial and biological neural networks, pattern recognition, learning by analogy, inductive logic programming, statistical learning, Bayesian, MDL, and MML estimation, robotics, application of learning to databases, and gene analysis.

The ALT series has endeavored to bring together many disparate areas of algorithmic learning under one umbrella. These meetings have fostered exchanges of ideas that have contributed to many advances. The continuing success of these gatherings has been admirably managed by its steering committee, consisting of Setsuo Arikawa (Chair, Kyushu University), Takashi Yokomori (University of Electro-Communications, Tokyo), Hiroshi Imai (University of Tokyo), Teruyasu Nishizawa (Nigata University), Akito Sakurai (Hitachi, Tokyo), Taiske Sato (Tokyo Institute of Technology), Takeshi Shinohara (Kyushu Institute of Technology), Masayuki Numao (Tokyo Institute of Technology), and Yuji Takada (Fujitsu, Fukuoka).

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ALT'96 was chaired by Setsuo Arikawa (Kyushu University, Fukuoka), and the Local Arrangements Chair was Achim Hoffmann (University of New South Wales, Sydney). The program committee was chaired by Arun Sharma (University of New South Wales).

We would like to express our sincere gratitude to all the members of the Program Committee, which consisted of:

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T. Zeugmann (Kyushu Univ., Japan)

The program committee members and the referees enlisted by them put in a lot of effort in ensuring that the workshop had high technical quality. We would like to express our sincere gratitude to the following referees.

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Fukuoka, August 1996 — Setsuo Arikawa
Sydney, August 1996 — Arun Sharma